

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

THE VIGILEER

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

Fly Bys

Safety Call

A mandatory safety call is 4 p.m. today at Hangar One. All 31st Fighter Wing Airmen must be in place by 3:35 p.m. in UOD with sleeves up. Civilians are welcome.

Air Force Ball

Aviano members are invited to the Air Force Ball 7 to 10 p.m. Sept. 16 at La Bella Vista. The theme is America the Beautiful: Hawaii and Alaska. Tickets cost \$12 for Airmen, \$15 for non-commissioned officers, \$20 for senior NCO's and company grade officers, \$25 for field grade officers and general officers and \$18 for Department of Defense civilians. Uniform for the ball is mess dress or semi-formal. To purchase tickets, call your group executive. For more information, call Capt. Karin DeAngelis at Ext. 6010.

Got mail?

The Post Office Annex is running out of room to store packages. Aviano members with packages currently at the Post Office Annex are encouraged to pick them up as soon as possible. Packages can be picked up between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Master Sgt. Mona Ferrell

U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service

Before a packed house at the Ramstein Officers' Club, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander was bestowed the enlisted corps highest honor Aug. 26.

Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, who's led USAFE since August 2003, was inducted into the command's Order of the Sword before nearly 600 enlisted members and guests representing every base within the command.

General Foglesong credited his father for the characteristics that got him where he is today.

"My dad was an NCO in the United States Navy and he spent four years in the South Pacific," the general said as he held his dad's dog tags up high. "I learned about work ethic, dedication, and I learned about commitment and taking care of your people from Red Foglesong. He brought those NCO characteristics back home with



Airman 1st Class Megan Carrico

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong thanks the USAFE enlisted corps for his induction into USAFE's Order of the Sword Aug. 26, as Command Chief Master Sgt. Gary G. Coleman looks on.

him ... so, I know what NCOs do."

These same characteristics are found in today's Airmen, said the general.

"I know that the NCOs in our Air Force are the steel in our back," said General Foglesong. "They are the service-before-self patriots who give their all without blinking an eye – all for the sake of serving

this great nation of ours.

"We have the greatest NCO corps in the world," the general continued. "We are the most respected and feared Air Force in the world and I unequivocally blame the people in this room for that."

Touted as an 'Airman among Airmen and a leader among leaders,' on the Order of the Sword

See Sword, Page 8

Hearing exam: All hearing tests have moved to Area F. Call Staff Sgt. Michael Bell at Ext. 5320 for information.

31st FW Sortie Board

sortie: n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	1722.8	720
	+30.9	0
555th FS goal	580.3	418
	+1.8	0
510th FS goal	1142.5	302
	+29.1	0



Fill 'er up!

Two 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron Airmen fuel U.S. Air Force aircraft during international airshow in Moscow.

- Page 5



Festival fun

An Italian-U.S. Air Force soccer game wraps up two-week long Aviano 37th International Folklore and American-Italian festivals.

- Page 17



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U.S. Air Forces in Europe

Airman Information File Followership -- The other half of leadership

A good leader must adapt to changing environments and motivate ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things. In a complementary way, a follower must adapt to their leader, mission, organization, and environment or risk losing their relevance! Too often, followers are either incapable of change or unwilling to take the tough steps necessary to do so. The formula for success: adapt your style to bolster your leader's vision, your organization's goals, and the operational environment.

Mission / Vision. Good followers have a clear understanding of where their leader wants to go. Understanding the mission and the leader's vision will help you prioritize the tasks critical to attaining the organization's goals. As a follower, you are the expert -- take the initiative and have the courage to turn the leader's vision into action. When former Secretary of State Colin Powell was asked why he was selected to be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff he replied, "I worked very hard. I was loyal to people who appointed me, people who were under me, and my associates. I developed a reputation as somebody you could trust. I would give you my very, very best."

Organization. Good followers are aware of their organization's strengths and weaknesses. They know the skill level of their fellow Wingmen and understand the issues facing their team. Similarly, a follower must be aware of their own strengths, weaknesses, and motivations -- be honest! Consider what you bring to the fight and how it contributes to the leader's vision. Once you discover where

your skills are needed most, apply your expertise with energy and focus. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay once said he was never given a job that he felt qualified to handle, yet he became one of our greatest military leaders.

Environment. Good followers maintain strong "situational awareness." The transformational environment we operate in today demands that we be prepared for any situation. Anything less may put our fellow Wingmen at risk. Responsive and vigilant followership can make the difference between mission success or failure. When you sense change, identify it and embrace it!

Good followership is the result of calculated study, deliberate practice, and sometimes painful experience. But for those willing to adapt, you become invaluable to your leader, your organization, and the mission. In a profession where success is measured in human life, we all need to be prepared to be dynamic followers-- the other half of great leadership!



Gen. Robert H. Fogle, right, is the U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander while Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, left, is the USAFE command chief master sergeant. USAFE is an Air Force major command and the air component of the U.S. European command. Its headquarters is located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. USAFE accomplishes its mission with its 16 installations, five of which are main operating bases situated across Europe. The command consists of about 73,000 people, including 26,000 active-duty Airmen.


General Doc Fogle


CMSgt Gary Coleman

Commander's Connection

Q: I've noticed that when I run 1.5 miles on the road versus six laps around the track my time is much better. I've spoken with other people who feel the same way. Is there any chance we can run a road course for our physical fitness test instead of running around the track?

A: A lot of people feel the same way and this choice is now a reality! Several factors had to be considered such as levels of incline and limited exposure to traffic. Keeping these factors in mind, an alternate running course has been completed. It is

an "out and back" design beginning on the southwest side of the Dragon Fitness Center. You can thank Aviano's Health and Wellness Center, Civil Engineering and Ground Safety staff for developing a safe and efficient alternative for the "World's Finest" to test on. The HAWC staff is putting the final touches on the Aviano supplement which will explain the policy and procedural details. The route used for unit fitness testing is at the squadron commander's discretion. I tested the course on June 29, earning a time of 10:08. I hope you can beat me!

Aviano Airmen fuel up at Moscow air show

By Tech. Sgt. Cindy Dorfner
100th Air Refueling Wing
Public Affairs

U.S. aircraft at the Moscow International Air Show and Space Salon at Ramenskoye Airfield didn't just share airspace and the runway with the Russians – they also shared fuel during the Aug. 21 show.

Normally topped off with JP-8, the eight American aircraft received a doctored-up version of Russia's TS-1 thanks to two petroleum, oil and lubricants specialists from the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron at Aviano.

The Russian TS-1 meets the U.S. particle and water standards, but needs to be combined with three performance additives, said Staff Sgt. Brad West, 31st LRS NCOIC of fuels training. The three additives include a corrosion inhibitor, static dissipating additive and fuel servicing icing inhibitor.

In some countries, the fuel is close enough to JP-8 that the aircraft could actually use it without the additives. But, in others, it isn't up to American standards and not adding the right mix of additives could cause potentially serious problems in flight, Sergeant West said.

Though the two POL troops had never been to Russia or worked with a Russian TS-1, finding the right mixture wasn't a problem. A technical order lists requirements for additives per gallon of



Tech. Sgt. Cindy Dorfner

Fuels distribution operator, Airman 1st Class Justin Davis, 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron, adjusts valves on a mobile fuel cart at the Moscow International Air Show and Space Salon Aug. 19.

kerosene, the standard in aircraft fuel.

Oddly enough, quite a bit of math is involved in refueling a plane. For instance, maintainers request fuel in pounds, European countries dispense it in liters and fuels specialists measure it in gallons. This is why the TO lists a formula which is at either end of the allowable spectrum. A "middle-of-the road" additives formula allows for wiggle room, Sergeant West said.

The language barrier seems to be the biggest challenge during the air show, and it's especially true when requesting fuel each day, said Airman 1st Class Justin Davis, 31st LRS fuels distribution operator.

"Even with a translator, it's sometimes hard to get across what you need," Airman Davis said.

The lack of communication didn't hamper fixing a potentially large problem during the first day of the air show, however. When the mobility cart, which mixes and injects the additives to the fuel, malfunctioned, daily B-1B aerial demonstrations were at risk for cancellation. But American and Russian fuels specialists worked together to find a solution.

Airman Davis said the Russians were instrumental in fixing the cart, allowing the crowd-pleasing B-1B to fly each day.

After the show ended Sergeant West and Airman Davis had their work cut out for them. Smaller transfer hoses and a "really old" refueling truck made getting the eight American aircraft fueled and ready to go a lengthy process.

In addition to the two B-1Bs, the U.S. had two F-15Es, two F-16CJs, a KC-10 Extender and a KC-135R Stratotanker on static display. Sergeant West estimated the KC-10 would take up to six hours to receive the 240,000 pounds, or 35,820 gallons, it requires.

Still, the trip is one neither is likely to forget any time soon.

"I got to duty to Russia on my first (temporary duty) since I've been in the Air Force," Airman Davis said. "They'll probably all be downhill from here."

The air show is one of the largest in the world, fourth only to the air shows in Paris, Farnborough, England, and Dubai. This is the second time the United States has displayed military aircraft at the air show.

Grab n' go: The commissary Grab & Go section is open 6 to 10 a.m. and after the commissary closes until midnight. Free coffee is served.

Hometown greetings offer unique way to connect

By Airman 1st Class Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Living overseas can be hard on people for a number of reasons; being separated from family and friends during the holidays is just one. Although being away from home can be difficult, the Hometown Holiday Greeting team offers Aviano members a unique way to stay connected with their loved ones back in the states.

The greeting team is visiting the Aviano Commissary Sept. 12-13 to record holiday messages from Airmen to their families and friends at home.

Aviano members interested in creating a greeting can sign up for a time slot by calling public affairs at Ext. 7555. Walk-ins are accepted, but will be fit in on a space-available basis.

Every year the Hometown Holiday Greeting team films thousands of messages from Airmen at bases around the world. The messages are then played during news broadcasts in each Airmen's specific hometown.

Here are some tips for making the greeting process go smoothly:

People can bring family members and well-behaved pets, and military members must be in uniform. If it's a person's day off, they must be taped wearing a serviceable military uniform. All members must adhere to AFI 36-2903.

Greeters are encouraged to bring an address book. Before taping begins, people will fill out a "who form" that asks for name, rank, unit and the name, addresses and telephone numbers of a stateside relative. Greetings can be said to friends, neighbors and fiancées, but the form must have a legitimate rela-

tive listed for notification and release.

The greeting team uses this information to call the relative to let them know when the greeting will air.

Once the forms are completed, it only takes about 15 seconds in front of the camera to create a greeting. People can develop a greeting in their own words, as long as the message is clean, but the greeting team would also like members to say who they are, where they are stationed and who the message is going to. People can also shoot as many messages as they wish, time permitting.

An example could be, "Seasons greetings from Aviano Air Base, Italy. I'm Senior Airman John Doe and I want to wish my mom and dad in San Antonio a happy holiday! I miss you and love you!"

In just 15 seconds, Aviano members can create an inexpensive, but priceless gift for their family and friends back home.

Change of address

31st CS moves to new building

By Airman 1st Class
Sarah Gregory
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

Over the past few years, Aviano 2000 has improved the way the base looks and operates. It has provided new places for the community to eat, shop and work.

The 31st Communications Squadron is one of the base organizations to benefit from the construction project – they finished moving into a new building this week.

The new integrated communications center was designed to consolidate communications assets throughout the wing, said Lt. Col. John Jordan, 31st CS commander. “The building allows us to deliver cutting edge communications services to the 31st Fighter Wing.”

The new building, located across the street from the Aviano Dragon Fitness Center and next door to the 31st Fighter Wing Headquarters, combines several communications shops under one roof.



Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

Spouse it up!

Airman 1st Class Jason Armstrong, Det. 8 American Forces Network, delivers a live broadcast from Aviano's Spouse It-Up event Aug. 17 in Area D. “These events are a great opportunity for people to have fun, relax and learn about activities in the community,” said Barb Yates, an event coordinator.

Now, whether it's getting a new e-mail account set up or troubleshooting telephone repairs, Aviano members have a centralized location to go to.

The ICC building saves time by giving customers a single place to go for communication issues, explained Colonel Jordan.

Although the building is currently functional and the move just about complete,

getting there wasn't an easy process.

“One of the challenges to construction was making sure the building design stayed current with our needs,” said Colonel Jordan. “Another obstacle was dealing with the expansion in size of the 31st Communications Squadron and allocating building space efficiently.”

“This was a total Aviano

effort and there was a tremendous amount of work that went into making this happen,” Colonel Jordan said. “We as a community have a lot to be proud of.”

The 31st CS isn't the only organization on base making its way to a new home; the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron is scheduled to move into the facilities the 31st CS just vacated.

Life Support: Aviano's Red Cross Center seeks volunteers. To volunteer, or for more information, call Ext. 5576.

Combat Intro, Exit make Aviano transitions easy

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Transitioning through Aviano can be stressful.

Fortunately U.S. Air Forces in Europe has a program that can reduce time spent preparing to arrive and depart.

“The purpose of Combat Intro/Exit is to streamline in- and out-processing by bringing the agencies to you,” said Capt. Chris Busque, 31st Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight commander and head of Aviano's Combat Intro/Exit program. “Right Start brings all the in-processing organiza-

tions to the customer and the Smooth Move prepares folks PCSing by answering any questions and helping the customer take care of what they can.”

In addition to easing customer in-processing, Right Start also ensures everyone has a sponsor.

“A sponsor is vital here,” said Joanne Rodriguez, 31st MSS Right Start coordinator. “Moving overseas can be overwhelming. A sponsor's role is to help ease the transition.”

Combat Exit is tied to the Virtual MPF's virtual out-processing, Capt. Busque said.

The goal of virtual out-processing is to eliminate stops that don't apply to

out-processing servicemembers. Around 60 days before departing the base, servicemembers also attend the Smooth Move briefings.

“With Right Start, a group of people come in at once and can in-process together,” Capt. Busque said. “Out-processing is a little harder since everyone gets orders at a different time and some agencies can't be brought to you. The Smooth Move program in conjunction with virtual out-processing reduces the number of stops and aims to increase customer satisfaction.”

For more information on relocation assistance, visit <http://www.avianofsc.org/relo.html>.

31st AMXS ignites Sure Fire 2005

By Senior Airman
Colleen Wronek
31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs

The 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron aircraft armament technicians proved how swift they are by being named Top Load Crew during the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Sure Fire '05 competition at Spangdahlem AB, Germany Aug. 24-25.

Aircraft armament technicians load weapons onto jets and Sure Fire '05 was designed to promote esprit de corps and recognize weapons loaders.

The fastest loading team was made up of Staff Sgt. Scott Batson, load team chief, and load team members Senior Airman Dallas Thornton and Senior Airman Joel Stanfield.

"It is a really good feeling and we are happy to represent Aviano," said Sergeant Batson.

The two-day contest is a tradition among weapons loaders, and was revived again this year.

The competition was stiff, said Sergeant Batson. "We were competing



Airman 1st Class Stacy Moless

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany -- Staff Sgt. Mark Basnight, 31st Maintenance Operation Squadron lead crew chief, loads an Aim-120 missile during the Sure Fire 2005 weapons load competition Aug. 24-25. Aviano sent two teams to the competition.

against a lot of top notch load crews. It was fantastic to win," he said.

The Aviano aircraft armament technicians trained for weeks to prepare for the weapons loading competition. "They

practiced about four weeks prior to the competition and it really paid off," said Master Sgt. Jon Boettcher, 31st AMXS weapons section superintendent.

"It raised morale and

encouraged weapons loaders throughout USAFE to share ideas with each other," Sergeant Boettcher said. "They were really prepared for it and I'm proud of them and I'm thrilled they won."

SGLI: Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance increases. Visit the Military Personnel Flight for more information.

Sword, from page 1

proclamation, the general's induction is the highest award the Air Force enlisted corps can bestow upon a person.

"I can't think of anyone more deserving," said Chief Master Sgt. Gary G. Coleman, USAFE command chief master sergeant and sergeant major for the ceremony.

"His support and guidance for the enlisted force are unparalleled," Chief Coleman said. "We are honoring a great leader. The general's sincere personal concern for the men and women in this command, combined with his outstanding leadership has catapulted USAFE to new heights of performance and combat readiness

— all while providing superior services that have allowed our Airmen to grow spiritually, mentally and physically."

Most of these services have come by way of the 15 Combat and Special Interest Programs General Fogle-song has instituted since taking the USAFE Flag.

"Whether looking at Combat Education, the high-energy events of Project CHEER, or the countless quality of life initiatives we've enjoyed over the past two years, the total dedication and passionate concern our commander has for our enlisted Airmen and their families is readily apparent," said Chief Coleman.

Humbly considering himself unworthy of the honor, General Fogle-song said his induction into the Order of the Sword is the highlight of his career.

"This (is) the high-water mark in my 33 years of service," the general said. "Nothing will top all of you being here tonight."

General Fogle-song is the sixteenth inductee into the USAFE Order of the Sword. The award is a tribute presented by the enlisted corps and patterned after two orders of chivalry founded in Europe during the Middle Ages — The Royal Order of the Sword and the Swedish Military Order of the Sword. Both orders still exist today.

Aviano fighter squadron earns bragging rights

By Airman 1st Class

Sarah Gregory

31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano Air Base took the overall top fighter wing trophy in U.S. Air Forces Europe's Excalibur training exercise at Lakenheath Air Base, England Aug. 19.

During the multi-national bombing competition, aircrew members from the U.S. Air Force and the Royal Air Force tested their tactical skills against each other.

"Events like Excalibur are important to Aviano because they foster a sense of camaraderie and esprit de corps that can only come from competition," said Lt. Col. Charles Moore, 555th Fighter Squadron commander.

Excalibur host, Brig. Gen. Robert Steel, 48th Fighter Wing commander said, "It is events like these that help us hone our skills, our lines of communication and our tactical abilities."

Excalibur is designed to enhance esprit de corps, not only among USAFE squadrons, but on an international scale as well. The competition pitted the talents of pilots from the 492nd and



Aviano F-16s take off from the RAF Lakenheath runway Aug. 19 as part of the Excalibur bombing competition. The 31st Fighter Wing took top honors in the event.

494th Fighter Squadrons from Lakenheath, the 52nd and 53rd FS at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, the 510th and 555th FS at Aviano and Royal Air Force pilots assigned to RAF Marham and RAF Coltishall.

"Being able to perform under the pressures of competition is not unlike the pressures experienced during a combat situation," said Colonel Moore. "Excalibur is all about which fighter wing can put the best jets in the air, put the best bombs on target and do it

with the fewest mistakes."

F-15E Strike Eagles from Spangdahlem, F-16 Fighting Falcons from Aviano and RAF GR-3 Jaguar and GR-4 Tornado fighter aircraft were flown during the competition. Although each team's aircraft had different capabilities, the aim was to pit pilot against pilot.

"These competitions test proficiencies in basic core competencies which are and will be (used) downrange," Capt. Rich Carver, 48th Operations Support Squadron weapons assistant chief, said.

Crews were judged on how well they dropped BDU-33 bombs on specific targets from defined altitudes, speeds and angles. Competitors were judged on their accuracy and how well they followed set restrictions such as angle of attack, altitude and speed.

"Aviano's success is due to its people and incredible teamwork," said Colonel Moore. "All of our people, including the support, maintenance and operations groups, performed every task they are given with excellence." (1st Lt. Carla Gleason, 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs contributed to the story).

Homecoming: Aviano prepares to welcome back troops

Q: What is reintegration ?

A: The reintegration process is designed to facilitate a smooth transition from the combat environment to family, community and workplace. The objective is for members to complete all medical and non-medical post-deployment requirements immediately after returning, in a manner that minimizes adverse impact on the member and family but allows a gradual reintegration. It also identifies high-risk individuals who have been exposed to unusual danger, experienced loss, witnessed disturbing events, been injured or had major family challenges who may benefit from additional counseling or other services.

Q: How does the reintegration process work?

A: The reintegration process was established for support agencies to provide information and assistance to the returning member. This phase begins when the member deplanes and concludes when reconstitution leave is complete; generally around 20 days post return. All processing requirements will be accomplished prior to reconstitution leave starting. The scheduling of activities is also geared toward ensuring the member has adequate time to spend with his/her family and friends. The goal is a gradual reintegration from deployed life back into home station life, and an opportunity for support agencies to identify members who are struggling with the process.

Q: When and where exactly will the reintegration process begin at Aviano?

A: Reintegration begins upon the return of deployed members. Their return times are dependent upon airlift scheduling. As airlift times are finalized, we will be able to plan the specific place and time for the reintegration based upon the size of the group returning.

Q: What is the policy on down time after deployments?

A: When troops return from a deployment, it is vital that they take time to recover and spend quality time with loved ones. The USAFE policy is that commanders will provide members with one day of down time for every six days deployed, for a maximum of 14 days. Troops have the option of taking a four-day pass during their down-time, where they can travel anywhere, but leave begins and ends in the local area. If a member plans to depart the local area for more than four days, they must be on ordinary leave.

Q: When should commanders and first sergeants brief spouses of deployed members on the reintegration process and who can assist them?

A: Spouses must be briefed on the reintegration process within 30 days prior to members returning from deployment. The following base agencies can assist: Col. Gerald Hogue, base chaplain, at Ext. 5211; Teresa Torelli, family support center, at Ext. 5050; Ann White, life skills, at Ext. 5321.

Q: Who can I call with questions about the reintegration process?

A: Aviano's point of contact is Master Sgt. Eric Alber, Family Readiness NCO, who works at the Family Support Center in Area One. He can be reached at Ext. 5663. (Information provided by Lt. Col. Darrell Raynor, 31st Mission Support Squadron commander).



Homecomings are sweet, but they are often the culmination of work on both the war front and homefront.

Closures

The Housing Office/FMO, and the 31st Medical Group will be closed Monday to observe Labor Day. The 31st MDG will have extended care hours, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the Family Practice Clinic in Area one. To obtain an appointment during extended care hours call 0434-30-5000. All medical group clinics will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. If there is an emergency, go to Pordenone or the closest emergency room.

POW/MIA

The Air Force Sergeants Association is hosting a POW/MIA retreat ceremony 3:30 p.m. Sept. 16 in front of the flag poles at the Italian Air Force headquarters. Ann Mills Griffiths, National League of POW/MIA Families executive director, will be the guest speaker.

Assistants

The Aviano American Red Cross is accepting ap-

plications for the Dental Assistant Programs. Volunteers interested should visit the Aviano Station in Bldg. 118, Area 1. Interviews will be conducted Sept. 9.

The Red Cross is also seeking a full time field office assistant. The position is paid and applicants are required to submit a resume by Wednesday. To apply, visit <http://www.redcross.org/jobs>.

Toastmasters

The Aviano Toastmasters Club 9289 meets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday at the operations group conference room in Bldg. 1360, Area one. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Joyce Parker at Ext. 7551 or 7673.

Palace Front/Chase

The next Palace Front/Palace Chase briefing is 2 p.m. Sept. 12 in the 31st Mission Support Group Conference Room, Bldg. 1403 in Area one.

As an outprocessing re-

quirement, the Palace Front briefing is mandatory for all reenlistment eligible Airmen who are electing to separate. Airmen interested in early separation through Palace Chase may also attend the briefing. For more information, call Master Sgt. Janet Boyles at Ext. 4919.

Tuition Assistance

The cutoff date for fiscal year 2005 Tuition Assistance is Sept. 21. If TA hasn't been approved, students can wait until Oct. 1 to apply.

Enlisted members must access the Air Force Portal and the Air Force Virtual Education Center to apply for tuition assistance online. Officers must come into the Education Office to process their applications. For more information, call the Education Office at Ext. 5330.

La Leche League

La Leche League of Aviano meets at 10 a.m. Sept. 12 in the Chapel Education Center, Bldg. 168 Area one. The informal meeting will discuss breastfeeding and weaning. For more information, call 348-242-5373 or e-mail LLLAviano@yahoo.com.

CGO conference

The European Region Company Grade Officers Conference is Oct. 3 - 6 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The conference is a joint effort with the Ramstein CGO Council and Project Connect. The theme is Leadership and Professional Development. All Armed Forces CGOs in the European area of responsibility are invited to attend. Call 2nd Lt. Sandra Bannan at 314-480-5469 or sandra.bannan@ramstein.af.mil for details.

Dental exams

Pediatric dental exams at the Base Chapel Annex are suspended during September.

The 31st Dental Squadron is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday, except federal holidays and

wing down days. Emergency care is available 24 hours a day, by calling Ext. 5000.

Appointments for comprehensive dental care can be made by calling Ext. 5060. Children under the age of 12 must be attended to at all times. Dental appointments will be re-scheduled for patients with unattended children below the age of twelve.

Registration

The deadline to register for the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Term I is Sept. 12. Classes begin Sept. 12. To register, visit the Education Center.

Officer opportunity

The Air Force seeks officers with international insight, foreign language proficiency and cultural understanding to work in today's security and expeditionary operations environment for international political-military assignments as International Affairs Specialists.

For more information on the IAS program, log onto the IAS Web site on the Air Force Portal at <https://www.my.af.mil/iaw/iaw>.

For qualifications or eligibility information, officers can call their appropriate assignments/development team or the AFPC IAS assignments team at DSN 665-4071.

AFI 36-2903, Table 2.5

To present the proper military image while in uniform, Air Force members are not allowed to walk or stand with their hands in their pockets.

Hands in pockets are authorized only to retrieve something.

*Courtesy of
Aviano AB First
Sergeants Council*

Reel Times

Today, 5 p.m. - "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" Rated PG - An impoverished boy wins a tour, along with four other children, of a Chocolate Factory run by the eccentric Willy Wonka and his staff of Oompa-Loompas. Starring: Johnny Depp, Freddie Highmore.

Today, 8 p.m. - "Bewitched" Rated PG-13 - When Jack accidentally runs into Isabel, he becomes convinced she could play the witch Samantha in his new TV series. Starring: Nicole Kidman, Will Ferrel.

Saturday, 2 p.m. - "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" Rated PG

Saturday, 7 p.m. - "War of the Worlds" Rated PG-13 - Ray is a working class man living in New Jersey, but the unthinkable happens- Martians have amassed to destroy earth. Starring: Tom Cruise, Miranda Otto.

Sunday, 2 p.m. - "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" Rated PG

Sunday, 7 p.m. - "Bewitched" Rated PG-13

Tuesday, 7 p.m. - "War of the Worlds" Rated PG-13

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. - "Lilo and Stitch" Rated PG - An illegal alien genetic experiment has escaped to Earth. Stranded on Hawaii, the experiment is adopted by a little girl named Lilo. Animated

Wednesday, 7 p.m. - "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" Rated PG

Thursday, 7 p.m. - "Bewitched" Rated PG-13
(Titles and times are courtesy of www.aafes.com, and are subject to change.)

Local communities team up for festival

**By Airman 1st Class
Sarah Gregory**
*31st Fighter Wing
Public Affairs*

Two communities came together for an evening of sports, games and friendship during a soccer match and traditional American-style barbecue festival Aug. 16.

During the festival, the Aviano Air Base varsity soccer team defeated the Italian air force 5-2 in a soccer match.

"The most important thing is not that we won but that we had fun playing a game we love with our hosts," said Master Sgt. Lorenzo Torres, the Aviano soccer team coach. "I believe we have earned the respect of our hosts in this European-dominated sport."

The game was the final event in the two-week long festival featuring folklore dancing groups from Greece, Russia, Serbia, Mexico and Hungary as well as Aviano. Other festival events included orchestras and live band performances.

"The game and festivities allowed the Italians and Americans to fellowship with one another in a fun,



Stefano Gislón

Russian dancers perform during Aviano's Annual 37th Folklore Festival Aug. 14. The festival featured dancers from around the world and ended in an Italian-American soccer match.

relaxing and recreational atmosphere," said Brian Colonna, the Aviano Community Center director and event coordinator. "It's an opportunity for both nationalities to experience and learn more about each others cultures and become international good neighbors."

In order to promote community relations between the base and local residents, the Aviano Community

Center and town of Aviano planned the game as part of a special Italian-American Festival day.

"Events like this are especially important because they allow the American and local Italian communities to come out, meet and have a good time together in an informal way," said Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander.

The wing commander

and the Aviano mayor were invited to play with their respective teams in the game.

After the game, the local community and soccer teams were treated to a barbecue celebration featuring music and outdoor games.

"The American population is considered a part of the local community and we look for occasions like this to get together in a pleasant, social way," said Paulo Tarchi, 31st Fighter Wing public affairs. "Often we work together on formal affairs that don't touch the heart of people; sporting events are an informal way to meet and to bring that out."

Building positive relationships within the community is an ongoing enterprise for Aviano's Community Center.

"Our mission is to offer the base populous a wide range of recreational and cultural programs," said Mr. Colonna. "This particular event allowed us to expand our mission of offering recreational programs to the base populace while fostering community relations."

An Aviano base committee has already begun planning next year's Italian-American festival day.

Olympics: The 2006 Winter Olympics takes place in February in Torino, Italy. To purchase tickets, visit <http://torino2006.ketone.it>

Italian-American Friendship Day

Aviano's Honorary Squadron Commanders Association is hosting the Fourth Annual Italian-American Friendship Day 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 11 at the municipal park of San Quirino. The event is designed to get the local Italian and American communities together for a day of sports, entertainment, music and Italian food.

The event kicks-off with a march at 9 a.m. followed by a memorial ceremony at 11 a.m. Lunch is provided by the San Quirino, Aviano and Montereale Alpini group and begins at noon. In the afternoon, there will be music performed by the Roveredo Band and by Aviano students. Other ac-

tivities will include jumping castles, face painting, balloons, sumo wrestling, ponies and horses and archery. There will also be arts and crafts and a painting exhibition.

This year, the event will also include a memorial ceremony to commemorate the firemen who died during the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. The event is open to the whole base population, military, families and friends, and is free, including food and beverages.

The 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron is providing a free shuttle service. Buses will leave on the hour starting at 10 a.m. from the lodging parking lot in Area F and the Community Center parking lot in Area One. This service is available to all military ID card holders and their dependents. To reserve a seat on the bus, call Vehicle Dispatch at Ext. 7666 or Ext. 7668 by Sept. 8.

Dragons torch competition

Aviano hosts games, takes USAFE softball championship



Airman Nathan Doza

"Inez 'OJ' Ornelas laces another hit for the Aviano Dragons mens' team during the U.S. Air Forces in Europe softball championship here Aug. 19. Ornelas led the Dragons with an .825 batting average for the tourney and was also named to the USAFE All-Tournament Team, which was made up of the 10 best players from the tournament. The men's team placed third overall.



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Aviano Lady Dragon's team member Michelle Segura slams a run against Spangdahelm. The Aviano Lady Dragons beat the Spangdahlem Sabers, 8-1, in the second championship game to take the USAFE title.



Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth

Aviano Lady Dragon Debbie Lamb runs out a base hit during the USAFE championship game against the Spangdahlem Sabers. The Aviano Lady Dragons had to beat out softball teams from Lajes Air Base, Azores; Lakenheath Air Base, England; Mildenhall Air Base, England and Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Fly Bys

Referees needed

The Aviano Officials Association is looking for high school football and volleyball officials for the upcoming season. Interested participants may call Joe Russo at 348-252-4885 or Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Smith at Ext. 4978.

Beach volleyball

The men's and women's Aviano beach volleyball open tournament runs Thursday through Sept. 11 in downtown Aviano. There is no entry fee and interested participants may contact Jessica Jackson at the Dragon Fitness Center at Ext. 7459.

Outdoor Recreation

- Aviano's Outdoor Recreation is hosting a free local mountain bike ride 10:30 a.m. Sept. 10. Bikers depart from Area One next to the Community Center. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday. The ride is lead by an experienced mountain bike rider from the Draghi cycling group and a member of the Outdoor Recreation staff. This will be an off-road, level to easy climb and last about two and half to three hours.

- Outdoor Recreation is hosting a hiking trip to Slovenia 7:30 a.m. Sept. 17. This is a full day of hiking, with a professional guide. Sign up by Wednesday. The cost of the hike, including transportation is 30 Euro.

- Join Outdoor Recreation for a trout fishing expedition 8 a.m. to noon Sept. 24. Deadline to sign up is Sept. 19. Cost of transportation is \$5 per person and fisher's pay €3.50 per kg. for the fish caught. There is a no throwing back rule.

For more information on any of these trips, or to sign up, call Ext. 8623.

Swim season ends

The Aviano swimming pool will officially close for the season Monday.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Deployed 603rd Air Combat Squadron Airmen make a difference in Afghanistan orphanage

**Story and photo by
1st Lt. James Freid-Studio
603rd Air Combat Squadron**

Sometimes labeled the “forgotten-war,” folks in Aviano are often surprised that U.S. troops are still operating in Afghanistan...enduring fierce fire-fights that claim the lives of coalition forces and enemy combatants alike on a daily basis.

As a member of the 603d Air Combat Squadron, it has been an awe-inspiring experience spending the last 120 days deployed to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Every day, our members are controlling close-air-support missions in the skies over Afghanistan, saving the lives of coalition forces and directing the pilots where to employ their weapons.

While most members of our military community at Aviano understand the reasons we are here, I am writing about another war that's being fought; one with an objective that will define the direction of the future of Afghanistan for generations to come.

In Afghanistan, there are more a million children who are living in orphanages. Another half million children are disabled. There are 350,000 children who are amputee victims of land mines and other unexploded ordinances with 10-12 new victims suffering injuries each day. Our small base clinic alone treats anywhere from 5-10 orphaned children a day!

Although the Afghan government is dedicating much of its limited assets to improving conditions for these innocent children, it is not enough. Effective medical care and public health services are only available in the major cities, while 90 percent of Afghanistan's population live in rural areas. When the children are placed in orphanages, often these homes are inadequate by any standards. Schools and supplies are a rarity. This is where we can do our part to help edu-



Children from the Majboor Abad orphanage in Afghanistan received school supplies, books and games from deployed 603rd Air Combat Squadron members. The 603rd Airmen donated supplies collected from schools, churches and individuals around Aviano.

cate and protect Afghanistan's most precious resource - its children.

Recently, members of the 603rd ACS helped establish a collection of supplies for these deprived children. With donations from schools, churches, and individual households at Aviano, we have collected thousands of books, games, education materials and personal hygiene products over the last three months. For all of this support from our families and friends back home, we are truly grateful!

The culmination of our program occurred when we finally were able to convoy our supplies out to children in the local area. I can't describe the love and gratitude expressed in the eyes of the children when we presented them with your gifts. Sure, a pack of pens or pencils might be a five-minute trip to the base exchange for you, but to these kids it's a symbol of hope. A sign that people outside of their village really care if they live or die.

Beyond what these offerings give to the children, they are also some of our most effective weapons against the enemy we face. As of late, terrorists have been so demoralized by

the goodness of the American people that they have resorted to stealing aid from village residents, in an attempt to “convince” the people to support their cause.

Never underestimate the role you play when you send packages and gifts downrange, both to the deployed members and local nationals of the host nation. You are an integral part in this Global War on Terroris with or without the uniform! Thank you for all you do!

Below are some organizations that accept contributions for the children of Afghanistan:

Help The Afghan Children
www.helptheafghanchildren.org

America's Fund for Afghan Children
www.whitehouse.gov/afac/

**Angels in America:
Help the Afghan Children**
<http://www.oprah.com>

Labor Day weekend ...

New safety concerns arrive with fall

By Lt. Col. Adrian Pone
31st Fighter Wing safety

September brings many changes for Aviano and the 31st Fighter Wing. The 101 Critical Days of Summer officially comes to a close, hundreds will deploy downrange, hundreds more will reintegrate after spending months in the desert and school begins. Although we welcome these changes, we must realize they come with some risks.

Throughout the 101 CDS, we in the 31st FW Safety office have focused on driving safety. The reason is clear as vehicle accidents inflict the greatest amount of death and injury. Last summer the Air Force lost 32 Airmen - the vast majority in motor vehicle accidents.

Last month, members of the 52nd Fighter Wing in Spangdahlem experienced tragedy when two of their Airmen were killed in a car accident.

As the summer season ends and fall begins, driving will only get more hazardous. Shorter days mean many of you will spend more time driving at night. Slow down when it is dark as you have less visibility and depth perception and your reaction time is diminished.

Slick roads during the autumn months will also complicate your driving. With lower temperatures and moisture, many roads, in particular Mountain Highway, can be very treacherous. Sadly, our wing lost an Airman last January on the Mountain Highway; the road was slick and the Airman failed to negotiate a turn.

Labor Day marks the end of the summer and is statistically one of the most dangerous vacations of the year. Enjoy your weekend, but do so safely. If driving a long distance, make sure you plan out your trip. As a general rule, I never drive more than eight-hours in a day.

If you're at the beach, make sure you swim with a buddy, know the water depth before you jump in and watch your physical limits. If hiking in the mountains, take a cell phone and stay hydrated. If partaking in any high risk activity, make sure you brief your supervisor - not only required but a smart thing to do.

Now one final word to the Airmen who are 26 and under: **don't drink and drive! A DUI is not only unsafe; it will ruin your career.** Last weekend two promising young Airmen destroyed their careers after driving under the influence. Don't repeat their foolish behavior. Before you drink, have a plan. Have a designated driver or walk. If you are in a jam, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 043430-5938. Remember the blood al-

cohol limit in Italy is .05...which equates to one drink! Airmen who have just come back from the desert, take heed, your alcohol tolerance is probably even less.

Speaking of those returning Airmen, you have to be especially cautious. Statistically, you are in greater danger now than when you were downrange. Welcome back, but please make sure you take the reintegration process seriously. The following basic tips will help keep you safe and out of trouble: First, avoid excessive alcohol intake, drink in moderation and make sure you have a plan to get home.

Second, drive to arrive - make sure you obey local traffic laws and keep your focus on the task at hand. Recently, an Airman died in a motor vehicle accident only 90 minutes after returning from a four-month deployment.

Finally, get used to the Aviano pace of life. After a four-month "break" some of you will be surprised how busy Aviano is. Remember to follow the rules. Shortcuts don't cut it here.

Speaking of shortcuts, don't try it when you drop your children off at school. As you know, parking is at a premium in Area One and the 31st Mission Support Group has done a great job setting up an optimal traffic flow and parking scheme. Together with our world-class security forces managing the flow, we can have a safe, expeditious drop-off/pick-up of our kids. Follow the flow and you are good to go. Cut corners and you will mess up the flow, endanger the kids, cause traffic jams, anger other parents (especially me) and get a ticket.

Kids, make sure you wear reflective gear when walking during low-light or night conditions. Always walk on the sidewalk or if unable, on the left (facing on-coming traffic) side of the road. Before crossing the street, look left, right and left again, then cross. Cross at a pedestrian crosswalk or street corner. Don't run across the street or through a parking lot; when you are walking in these areas, you need to give your full attention to watching for traffic. If you must walk through parked traffic, stop and look carefully before stepping out from between vehicles.

The 31st FW will tackle the upcoming challenges safely and with excellence...as a team. As we approach the end of the 101 CDS, remember to play it safe during the Labor Day weekend. Let's fix this DUI problem. Know your limits when you return from downrange. Remain vigilant around our schools. And as always, **take care of your wingman!** Thanks for your help in making Aviano a safe place to work and live.



The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

Submission info: We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

Commentaries: Writers can send commentaries to vigileer@aviano.af.mil. Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

Kudos: Aviano members can send kudos to Vigileer@aviano.af.mil with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

"Labor Day marks the end of the summer and is statistically one of the most dangerous vacations of the year"